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Unintended Consequences

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I thought I was free of the school jitters when I graduated. But damned if old Mr. Myers still doesn't freak me out when I'm late for faculty meetings. When I came back to teach I was sure he was dead by now.

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Sheesh! Forget it. I wouldn't expect an old nerd like you to understand.



Old?! I see you didn't argue with the nerd part.

Old?!



Look, unless you plan on taking me to the Vice Principal's office so he can give me detention or something, I can make it to class just fine alone.

You still haven't convinced me you're just late. What were you doing with those other guys anyway?



It's just hard getting around on these crutches, kay? I was getting some help but I had to wait till they were done lighting up.



Why don't your parents give you a ride to school?

You're just gonna make me more late. I wish you'd have just busted me or something. Later.

Just a minute, young lady.



I have a name, Melissa. I'd rather you used it.



Okay, Melissa. I have an obligation as a teacher in this school to see you safely to class.

Fine, yeah, whatever.

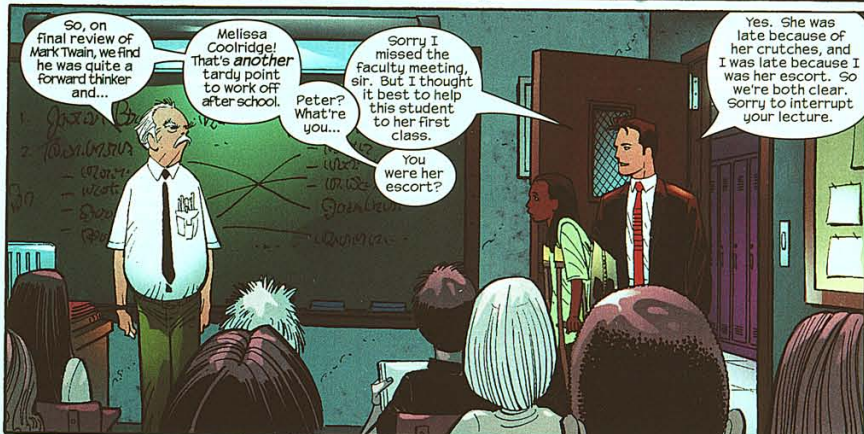


So who's your home room teacher?

Mr. Myers. Oh, great.

You sound like you know him pretty well. Shouldn't he be dead by now?

I do, he isn't, and actually, this could work out well for both of us...



So, on final review of Mark Twain, we find he was quite a forward thinker and...

Melissa Coolridge! That's another tardy point to work off after school.

Peter? What're you...

Sorry I missed the faculty meeting, sir. But I thought it best to help this student to her first class.

You were her escort?

Yes. She was late because of her crutches, and I was late because I was her escort. So we're both clear. Sorry to interrupt your lecture.



Very well...nevermind the tardy mark, Melissa. With help of this calibre, I'm surprised you were even able to find the building.



Laugh all you want, Myers, someday you're gonna have to use the men's room in a hurry, and I'm gonna get there before you.



And web the door shut.



Good afternoon, Maude. Looking beautiful as always.

Oh Peter, you lie beautifully, darling, have ever since the ninth grade, so don't stop.



What can I do for you today?

I'd like to see the records for a Melissa Coolidge.



Let's see, here. Any particular reason for this one?

Just curious.



Not another one of your pet projects!

What's wrong with that?



Nothing wrong. Just with all the extracurricular things you do for these kids, do you ever get to sleep?

I've learned something about sleep. You don't need much of it.



You sound like my grandfather. He said the same thing when he was ninety-seven.

I am not old!

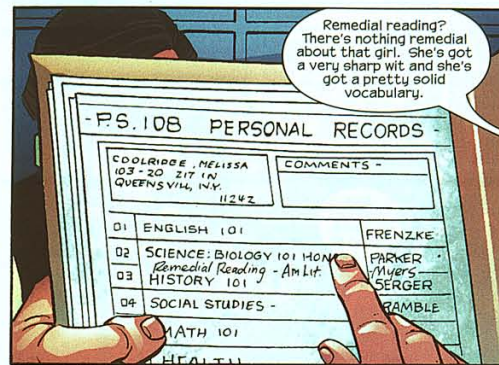
I am not old!

I am not old!

And I'm not a nerd, either.

Just, y'know... in case.

Ah, here it is.



Remedial reading? There's nothing remedial about that girl. She's got a very sharp wit and she's got a pretty solid vocabulary.



Yep, here we go. I can see another stray being taken in. Let me see those papers.



She failed her final exam in regular Lit last semester. So she's had to take the remedial to make up for it. Poor thing.

I remember her now. She was really upset about dropping the honors Bio. She had to take an extra P.E. course just to keep her units up.



Which means she'll be on the sidelines in P.E. all semester with that leg of hers.

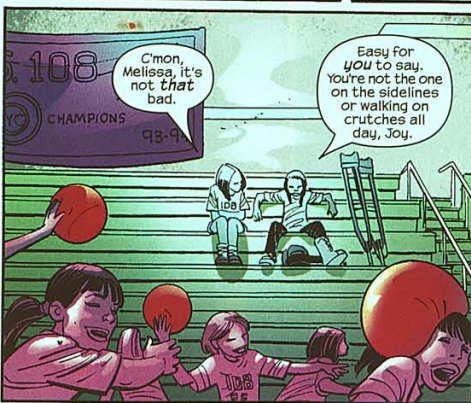
Hmm...



Thanks, Maude! I owe you.

Sure thing, Peter. Feel free to come by and lie to me anytime.

It'll make me nostalgic for my last two marriages...



C'mon, Melissa, it's not that bad.

Easy for you to say. You're not the one on the sidelines or walking on crutches all day, Joy.



I really don't wanna be here. Coulda skipped all day. Those idiots smoked too close to campus.

You got caught?

Mmm.

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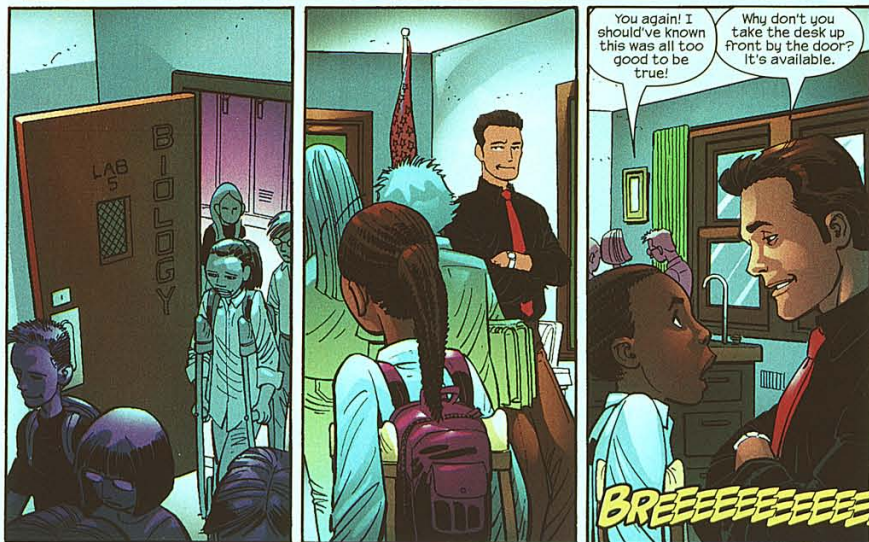
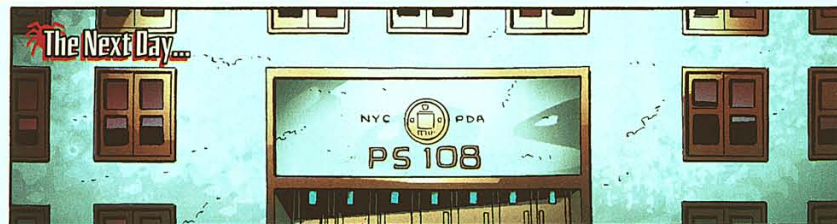
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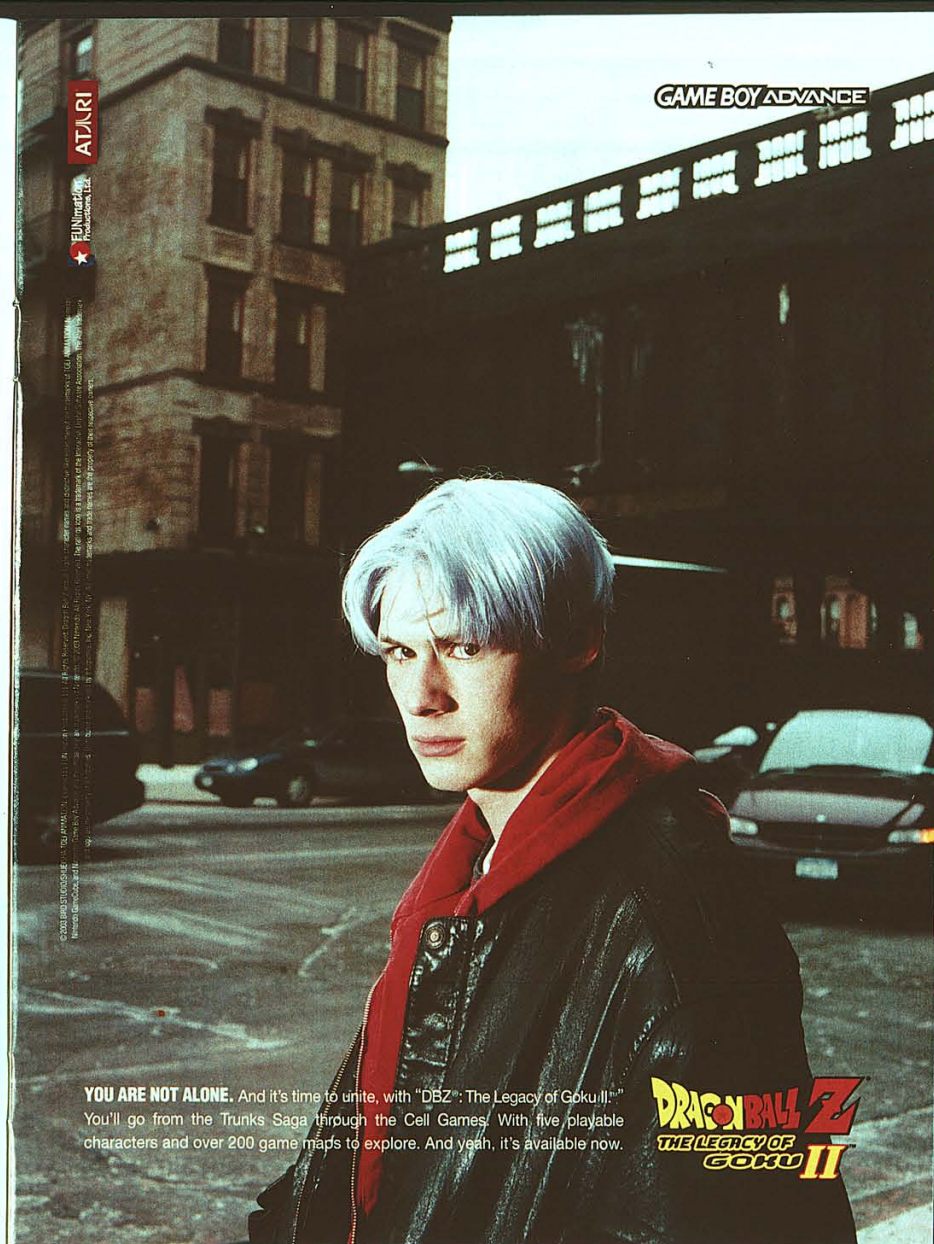
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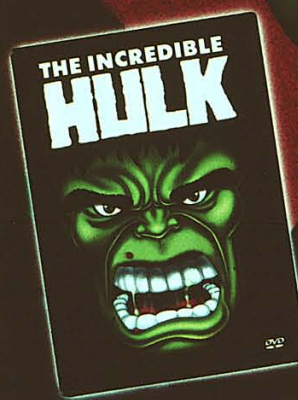




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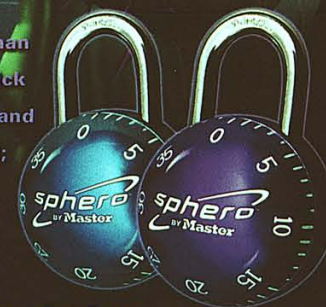
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I tell her about it. All of it--from helping Melissa at school, to taking out the thugs at her home, hearing how her mom eked out a living, and then realizing I put her older brother away for carjacking a few months earlier.



So, if you helped make the problem, I guess you kinda have to fix it.

I didn't say I made the problem.

Nope. You didn't.

Nuts...



30 Minutes later, across town...

Would be this kid's first pay-back too.

But I really didn't like losing my teeth.

I say we let the old landlord here decide if we go back and rough anyone up. Then he won't beat us up for beating anyone up we shouldn't have...



We still got a lot of good stuff though. Guggit to take care of the back-rent, easy.



How was business today?

We, er-- it wasn't great, but we made your money back.



Where's Rudolpho? I wanna hear this out.

Went to pawn some of his stuff off.

So that being the case--



--anybody want to pay to buy this back?

Thweet Jethuth!



You guys ever think about looking behind you once in a while? Just, y'know, in case there's a friendly neighborhood Spider-Man following?



What have you guys done...? Did you lead him here?



I'd appreciate it if you didn't leave until I said what I came to say.

Ack!





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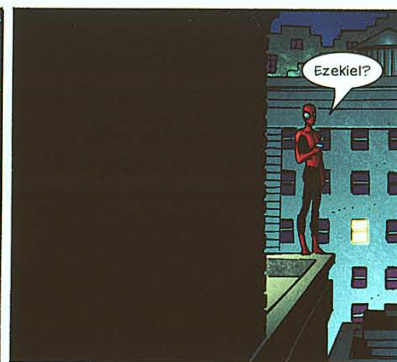
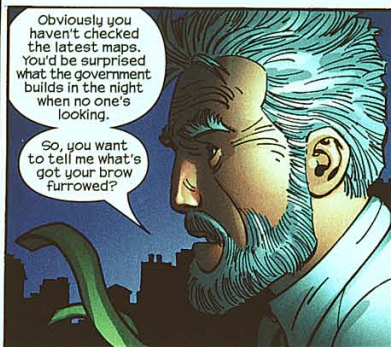
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